

## Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01

RSR-01 /064 W

----- 052672

R 291045 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2571

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL KARACHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 2070

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, AF, PK

SUBJ: AFGHAN/ PAKISTANI RELATIONS - PASHTUNISTAN

REF: KABUL 2019 ( NOTAL)

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH POLOFF MARCH 29, PAK CHARGE' BABAR STATED RGA HAS APPROACHED HIM NEITHER CONCERNING STATEMENT ON PASHTUNISTAN NOTED REFTEL NOR ON PAK RADIO COMMENTARY EVENING MARCH 28 STRONGLY REJECTING AFGHAN STATEMENT. BABAR STATED THIS WAS CONTRARY USUAL PRACTICE BUT MAY RESULT FROM PAK AMBASSADOR' S REJECTION AFGHAN COMPLAINT IN FEBRUARY CONCERNING REMOVEL GOVERNORS BALUCHISTAN AND NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE. AT THAT TIME PAK AMBASSADOR HAD INFORMED MFA THIS WAS STRICTLY PAK INTERNAL BUSINESS AND IT NOT PROPERLY CONCERN FOREIGN GOVERNMENT. BABAR CONJECTURES AFGHANS MORE ANNOYED AND ANGRY THIS TIME THAN THEY HAVE BEEN AT ANY TIME PREVIOUS YEAR. SUPPORTING THIS INTERPRETATION, BABAR NOTED THAT PHRASE QUOTE OCCUPIED BALUSCHISTAN UNQUOTE HAS BEEN USED HERETOFORE BY AFGHAN PRESS BUT NOT IN RECENT MONTHS BY AFGHAN GOVERNMENT NOR SENIOR OFFICIALS. SPECIFICALLY NEITHER PRIMIN SHAFIQ WHEN HE REFERRED TO PASHTUNISTAN PROBLEM IN HIS SPEECH ON CONCLUSION HELMAND WATERS TREATY ( KABUL A-18) NOR PRIMIN SHAFIQ NOR UN  
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PERMREP PAZHWAK IN THEIR UN SPEECHES LAST YEAR USED THIS PHRASE.

2. ELABORATING UPON PREVIOUS AFGHAN PROTESTS REGARDING PASHTUNISTAN, BABAR SAID AFGHANS HAD ALWAYS POINTED OUT THAT RGA HAD TO QUOTE DO SOMETHING UNQUOTE IN ORDER PREVENT AFGHAN PASHTUNS, PARTICULARLY IN PARLIAMENT AND PRESS, FROM USURPING INITIATIVE FROM RGA. BABAR SAID PAKISTANIS UNDERSTOOD THIS; AND THEY TRIED TO MAKE POINT TO AFGHANS THAT PAKISTAN TOO HAD ITS INTERNAL PROBLEMS WITH PASHTUNISTAN ISSUE. AT SAME TIME, GOP HAD POINTED TO ITS EXTERNAL PROBLEMS WITH BANGLADESH AND INDIA. IN EARLIER DISCUSSIONS, BABAR SAID BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAD AGREED THAT ISSUE SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED UNTIL PAKISTANI SITUATION STABLE. STILL, HE WAS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED BY ABRUPTNESS AFGHAN ACTION THIS OCCASION.

3. BABAR CONFIRMED HE TOO HAD HEARD KABUL RUMORS ABOUT QUOTE LARGE DEMONSTRATIONS UNQUOTE IN JALALABAD, KANDAHAR, AND/ OR KABUL THIS WEEKEND AS FURTHER PROTEST AGAINST GOP. BABAR POINTED OUT THAT LARGE OPPOSITION DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULED PESHAWAR MARCH 30 WHICH HE HOPED MIGHT BE DEFUSED BY PRESIDENT BHUTTO SPEECH SCHEDULED EVENING MARCH 29 WHICH HE HEARD WOULD BE CONCILIATORY TOWARD PAKISTANI OPPOSITION.  
NEUMANN

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**TAGS:** PGOV, AF, PK  
**To:** NEA  
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ISLAMABAD  
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